

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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Claim 1. (Currently amended) A method for monitoring ~~electronic instant~~ messages that are directed to an intended recipient, the method comprising:

routing ~~electronic instant~~ messages directed to an intended recipient to a supervisory recipient; and

enabling ~~electronic the instant~~ messages to be screened by the supervisory recipient.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein routing the ~~electronic instant~~ message includes notifying the intended recipient that the ~~electronic instant~~ message has been routed to the supervisory ~~recipient recipient~~.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein routing the ~~electronic instant~~ message does not include notifying the intended recipient that the ~~electronic instant~~ message has been routed to the supervisory recipient.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the ~~electronic instant~~ message to be screened further comprises:

allowing the supervisory recipient to approve or reject the ~~electronic instant~~ message, and  
forwarding the approved ~~electronic instant~~ message to the intended recipient.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein enabling the electronic instant message to be screened further comprises:

comparing an electronic address of a sender of the electronic instant message to at least one sender list, and

approving or rejecting the electronic instant message based on a result of the comparison.

Claim 6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of approved senders such that comparing the electronic address comprises comparing the electronic address of the sender to the list of approved senders.

Claim 7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of blocked senders such that comparing the electronic address comprises comparing the electronic address of the sender to the list of blocked senders.

Claim 8. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising establishing the supervisory recipient for the intended recipient.

Claim 9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the intended recipient is a minor child and the supervisory recipient is a guardian for the minor child such that establishing the supervisory recipient includes establishing the guardian as the supervisory recipient for the minor child.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient have related accounts within an electronic mail instant message service such that routing the electronic instant message includes routing the electronic instant message to an account for the supervisory recipient that is related to an account for the intended recipient.

Claim 11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient have unique screen names comprising a single Internet service provider account.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient have unrelated accounts such that routing the electronic instant message includes routing the electronic instant message to the supervisory recipient account unrelated to the intended recipient account.

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Claims 13-15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A system for routing electronic instant messages, the system comprising:

a routing software module that sends to a supervisory recipient an electronic instant message that would otherwise be routed to an intended recipient;

a screening software module that allows the electronic instant message to be screened by the supervisory recipient and allow allows the supervisory recipient to approve or reject the electronic instant message; and

a forwarding software module that forwards the electronic instant message to the intended recipient if approved by the supervisory recipient.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 16 wherein the routing software module notifies the intended recipient that the electronic instant message has been routed to the supervisory recipient.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 16 wherein the routing software module does not notify the intended recipient that the electronic instant message has been routed to the supervisory recipient.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 16, wherein the screening software module comprises:

a first software module that compares an electronic address of a sender of the electronic instant message to at least one sender list, and

a second software module that approves or rejects the electronic instant message based on a result of the comparison.

Claim 20. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of approved senders.

Claim 21. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of blocked senders.

Claim 22. (Original) The system of claim 16 further comprising a supervisor establishing software module that establishes the supervisory recipient for the intended recipient.

Claim 23. (Original) The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module for designating a minor child as the intended recipient and for designating a guardian for the minor child as the supervisory recipient.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module that relates accounts of the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient within an electronic mail instant message service.

Claim 25. (Original) The system of claim 24 further comprising a software module that enables the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient to have unique screen names comprising a single Internet service provider account.

Claim 26. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient have unrelated accounts.

Claims 27-29. (Cancelled)

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Claim 30. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program for processing by a computer, the computer program comprising:  
a first code segment that causes the computer to route to a supervisory recipient an electronic instant message that would otherwise be routed to an intended recipient;  
a second code segment that causes the computer to enable the electronic instant message to be screened by the supervisory recipient and allows the supervisory recipient to approve or reject the electronic instant message; and  
a third code segment that causes the computer to forward the electronic instant message to the intended recipient if approved by the supervisory recipient.

Claim 31. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 30 wherein the first code segment causes the computer to notify the intended recipient that the electronic instant message has been routed to the supervisory recipient.

Claim 32. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 30 wherein the first code segment does not cause the computer to notify the intended recipient that the electronic instant message has been routed to the supervisory recipient.

Claim 33. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 30 wherein the second code segment causes the computer to:

compare an electronic address of a sender of the ~~electronic instant~~ message to at least one sender list, and

approve or reject the ~~electronic instant~~ message based on a result of the comparison.

Claim 34. (Original) The computer program of claim 33 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of approved senders.

Claim 35. (Original) The computer program of claim 33 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of blocked senders.

Claim 36. (Original) The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a fourth code segment that causes the computer to establish the supervisory recipient for the intended recipient.

Claim 37. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 36 further comprising a code segment that causes the computer to designate a minor child as the intended recipient and a guardian for the minor child as the supervisory recipient.

Claim 38. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a code segment that causes the computer to relate accounts of the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient within an ~~electronic mail instant message~~ service.

Claim 39. (Original) The computer program of claim 38 further comprising a code segment that causes the computer to recognize unique screen names comprising a single Internet service provider account as the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient.

Claim 40. (Original) The computer program of claim 30 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient have unrelated accounts.

Claims 41-43. (Cancelled)

Claim 44. (New) A method for monitoring chat room messages that are directed to an intended recipient, the method comprising:

routing chat room messages directed to an intended recipient to a supervisory recipient; and

enabling the chat room messages to be screened by the supervisory recipient.

Claim 45. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein routing the chat room message includes notifying the intended recipient that the chat room message has been routed to the supervisory recipient.

Claim 46. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein routing the chat room message does not include notifying the intended recipient that the chat room message has been routed to the supervisory recipient.

Claim 47. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein enabling the chat room message to be screened further comprises:

allowing the supervisory recipient to approve or reject the chat room message, and  
forwarding the approved chat room message to the intended recipient.

Claim 48. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein enabling the chat room message to be screened further comprises:

comparing an electronic address of a sender of the chat room message to at least one sender list, and

approving or rejecting the chat room message based on a result of the comparison.

Claim 49. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of approved senders such that comparing the electronic address comprises comparing the electronic address of the sender to the list of approved senders.

Claim 50. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of blocked senders such that comparing the electronic address comprises comparing the electronic address of the sender to the list of blocked senders.

Claim 51. (New) The method of claim 44 further comprising establishing the supervisory recipient for the intended recipient.

Claim 52. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the intended recipient is a minor child and the supervisory recipient is a guardian for the minor child such that establishing the supervisory recipient includes establishing the guardian as the supervisory recipient for the minor child.

Claim 53. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient have related accounts within a chat room message service such that routing the chat room message includes routing the chat room message to an account for the supervisory recipient that is related to an account for the intended recipient.

Claim 54. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient have unique screen names comprising a single Internet service provider account.

Claim 55. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient have unrelated accounts such that routing the chat room message includes routing the chat room message to the supervisory recipient account unrelated to the intended recipient account.

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Claim 56. (New) A system for routing chat room messages, the system comprising:  
a routing software module that sends to a supervisory recipient a chat room message that would otherwise be routed to an intended recipient;  
a screening software module that allows the chat room message to be screened by the supervisory recipient and allows the supervisory recipient to approve or reject the chat room message; and  
a forwarding software module that forwards the chat room message to the intended recipient if approved by the supervisory recipient.

Claim 57. (New) The system of claim 56 wherein the routing software module notifies the intended recipient that the chat room message has been routed to the supervisory recipient.

Claim 58. (New) The system of claim 56 wherein the routing software module does not notify the intended recipient that the chat room message has been routed to the supervisory recipient.

Claim 59. (New) The system of claim 56, wherein the screening software module comprises:

a first software module that compares an electronic address of a sender of the chat room message to at least one sender list, and

a second software module that approves or rejects the chat room message based on a result of the comparison.

Claim 60. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of approved senders.

Claim 61. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of blocked senders.

Claim 62. (New) The system of claim 56 further comprising a supervisor establishing software module that establishes the supervisory recipient for the intended recipient.

Claim 63. (New) The system of claim 56 further comprising a software module for designating a minor child as the intended recipient and for designating a guardian for the minor child as the supervisory recipient.

Claim 64. (New) The system of claim 56 further comprising a software module that relates accounts of the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient within a chat room message service.

Claim 65. (New) The system of claim 64 further comprising a software module that enables the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient to have unique screen names comprising a single Internet service provider account.

Claim 66. (New) The system of claim 56 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient have unrelated accounts.

Claim 67. (New) A computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program for processing by a computer, the computer program comprising:  
a first code segment that causes the computer to route to a supervisory recipient a chat room message that would otherwise be routed to an intended recipient;  
a second code segment that causes the computer to enable the chat room message to be screened by the supervisory recipient and allows the supervisory recipient to approve or reject the chat room message; and  
a third code segment that causes the computer to forward the chat room message to the intended recipient if approved by the supervisory recipient.

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Claim 68. (New) The computer program of claim 67 wherein the first code segment causes the computer to notify the intended recipient that the chat room message has been routed to the supervisory recipient.

Claim 69. (New) The computer program of claim 67 wherein the first code segment does not cause the computer to notify the intended recipient that the chat room message has been routed to the supervisory recipient.

Claim 70. (New) The computer program of claim 67 wherein the second code segment causes the computer to:  
compare an electronic address of a sender of the chat room message to at least one sender list, and  
approve or reject the chat room message based on a result of the comparison.

Claim 71. (New) The computer program of claim 70 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of approved senders.

Claim 72. (New) The computer program of claim 70 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of blocked senders.

Claim 73. (New) The computer program of claim 67 further comprising a fourth code segment that causes the computer to establish the supervisory recipient for the intended recipient.

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Claim 74. (New) The computer program of claim 73 further comprising a code segment that causes the computer to designate a minor child as the intended recipient and a guardian for the minor child as the supervisory recipient.

Claim 75. (New) The computer program of claim 67 further comprising a code segment that causes the computer to relate accounts of the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient within a chat room message service.

Claim 76. (New) The computer program of claim 75 further comprising a code segment that causes the computer to recognize unique screen names comprising a single Internet service provider account as the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient.

Claim 77. (New) The computer program of claim 67 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient have unrelated accounts.